

Replacement Sheet**Application # 10/708,789****Invention Title: Fishing Reel Threading Tool****Inventor: Harry John Maxwell****Filing Date 25 Mar 2004****Revised Detailed Description**

The fishing reel threading tool is a handheld device that assists fishermen in threading fishing line through the level wind orifice (6)(8) of level wind equipped fishing reels. The level wind orifice is described herein as the opening in the level wind mechanism of level wind equipped fishing reels, that guides the fishing line on to the fishing reel spool. The level wind orifice is an integral part of a typical level wind equipped fishing reel and is referenced to demonstrate the function of the fishing reel threading tool and is not a part thereof. The fishing reel threading tool consists of a buoyant cylindrical handle that is long enough to fit comfortably between the thumb and forefinger, having a pointed fixed length flexible loop attached to one end of the buoyant handle at an exit point (2) near the center of one end of the handle and a return point (2) (5) in close proximity to the exit point on the same end of the handle. The ~~pointed fixed length flexible loop~~ ~~pointed fixed length asymmetrical loop~~ is shaped loop, ~~containing 3 discernable bends~~, that is able to distort to accommodate passage through the small opening of the level wind orifice. The ~~pointed fixed length flexible loop is able to return to the original shape when fully inserted into or when removed from the level wind orifice.~~ Hereafter, the fishing reel threading tool may be referred to as tool, the ~~pointed fixed length flexible loop~~ ~~pointed fixed length asymmetrical loop~~ as loop, the buoyant cylindrical handle as handle, and a level

wind equipped fishing reel as a fishing reel. The ~~tip loop (3)~~ tip end opening is defined as the ~~triangular shaped~~ area of the loop including the apex (3), tip (4) and crossover point (7) ~~that and~~ comprises the approximately middle one half of the total length of the loop. When the tool is fully inserted into the level wind orifice the tip loop end opening is fully expanded to at least twice it's the normal shape and size allowing the fisherman to easily insert the end of the fishing line. When the tip loop end opening is collapsed it closes around and helps hold onto any fishing line trapped within the collapsed tip loop end opening area, this enables the end of fishing line to be extracted along with the loop, from the level wind orifice, either through the front or the rear of the level wind orifice, the front being the view of the level wind orifice when facing the front of the reel. The loop is flexible but rigid enough to allow the fisherman to guide the tip loop past the obstructions and passages of the fishing reel to gain full access to the tip loop end opening and any inserted fishing line. The ability of the loop to hold and extract fishing line, within the tip loop, end opening, overcomes the challenging characteristics of fishing line including; limpness particularly with small diameter fishing line, low visibility, memory, and the characteristic of the fishing environment including, low light conditions, wind, rough water; the significant factor that the fishing reel must be attached to a fishing rod for either the fishing reel or rod to be used for the intended purpose. All of these factors in one or more combination make the process of threading fishing line through the level wind orifice awkward and difficult. The handle and loop are made from a material or materials of adequate flexibility and strength to hold up to the fishing line extraction process. The handle provides sufficient buoyancy to allow the tool to float

when immersed into water. The tool is lightweight and small enough to be carried in a fisherman's pocket. It is to be understood that the fishing reel threading tool may also be used to thread material through openings other than those found on level wind fishing reels. Having illustrated and described the principles of my invention, it should be apparent to those persons skilled in the art that components may be modified in arrangement and detail without departing from such principles. I claim as my invention all such modifications as come within the true spirit and scope of the following claims.

Remarks:

The changes above were made to more clearly, positively and consistently describe the structure and function of fishing reel threading tool.

After a careful review of the claims and detailed description provided in US Patent no 4,102,478, I respectfully submit that the threader as described in that patent could not have anticipated the benefit, potential need or even usefulness of a buoyant handle.

The handle as described in that patent could not possibly provide sufficient buoyancy to offset the weight of it's own components and the additional weight of the attached wire loop. Buoyancy could not be achieved and have the tool remain similar to the figures included with that patent. Buoyancy could only be achieved by adding additional materials that could provide it, or by modifying the tool to include a watertight air chamber of sufficient size to obtain it. Either modification would significantly change the threader. I do not believe that materials exist that would create a buoyant tool while remaining true to that patent.

A buoyant handle would only be a concern if the inventor had anticipated the use of the "threader" in a marine environment or other environment where water of significant depth could be a problem and would likely be present. The description of US Patent 4,102,478 specifically states. "It is to be understood that the threader described may also be used to thread needles of types other than that shown in FIG. 1, needle 30 being shown for illustrative purposes only." Clearly this information is included to expand the scope of the tool and to broaden application to cover threading of any type of "needle" and falls far short of any potential uses such as described in this patent submission. The limited scope further supports my contention that a buoyant handle was not anticipated.

Finally, sewing, needle threading of any type or similar activity is very unlikely to be performed in an environment where there is a realistic concern for the need to recover the tool from a body of water. This is not a minor detail but an important consideration in this patent submission and has been included directly in the submitted claims since the onset. Therefore, I request that you reconsider whether a buoyant handle could or would have been anticipated in the referenced patent.